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PATENT & TRADEMARK

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PATENT
0042-0456P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoichiro YAMASHITA Conf.: 6858
Appl. No.: 09/941,839 Group: 1731
Filed: August 30, 2001 Examiner: D. A. Walls
For: BIODEGRADABLE CELLULOSE ACETATE STRUCTURE AND
TOBACCO FILTER

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APR 10 2003
GROUP 1700

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Monday, April 7, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated November 6, 2002, the period for reply having been extended two (2) months to Monday, April 7 2003, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A cellulose acetate structure, at least a surface region of which comprises a biodegradable cellulose acetate composition comprising a biodegradation promoting agent contained in cellulose acetate and comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an ester of an oxygen acid of phosphorus, a salt of an ester of an oxygen acid of phosphorous, carbonic acid and a salt of carbonic acid.